



**MN AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT
TO
STOP THE ARBITRARY REMOVAL OF BLACK CHILDREN BY MINNESOTA'S
CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

|Senate Author- Champion | House Author- Agbaje
SF 716 | HF 912

Minnesota's African American youth are removed from their homes at an alarming rate and a large number are crossing over from child protection into the juvenile justice system. **Racial disparities are found in the entire process; from initial reporting, screening, and assessment to discharge from the system.**

The child protection reform that began under the orders of Governor Dayton failed to address Minnesota's long-standing issue of disproportionality, unequal treatment and poor child welfare outcomes for African American children and their families. The governor's task force recommendations lead to an astronomical spike in the removal of African American children and *even higher* rates of child protection involvement for these families.

The perpetual clogging of our child protection system with children that are ***not*** at risk of harm has exhausted the state's resources. Lending to case worker overload, a significant decrease in foster home availability and a nonsensical increase in state spending while leaving children ***truly*** in need of protection, vulnerable and at risk.

**THE MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT WOULD
SERVE TO:**

- ✚ Protect Children and Strengthen Families
- ✚ Reduce the Overall Cost of Child Welfare Services and Out of Home Placement
 - ✚ Reduce Law Enforcement and Judicial Systems Costs for Intervention
- ✚ Improve the Mental Health and Social Functioning of African American Children
 - ✚ Improve the Child Protection Department's Efficacy

WHY DOES MINNESOTA NEED AN AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT?

- African American children are over 3 times more likely than their white counterparts to be reported to child protection
- African American and children of 2 or more races are removed from their home at a rate 2.4-6.8 times higher than their white counterparts
- Once maltreatment has been substantiated, white families, with the same or more egregious allegations, are more likely to receive services that allow their children to remain in the home while African American children are removed from theirs
- African American families are assigned to the family investigation path for *discretionary* reasons at significantly higher rates than Caucasian families
- The family investigation track is more punitive, may involve the court and a maltreatment finding. This finding may cause a loss of employment and/or housing and increases the families' likelihood of future child protection involvement
- The rights of African American parents are terminated at higher rates. African American and children of 2 or more races 3-5 times more likely than White children to become a state ward
- African American and children of two or more races are least likely to be adopted before the age of 18
- African American children are the highest population of children moving from child protection to juvenile detention

The Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act would (1) protect the best interests of African American children and (2) promote the stability and security of African American families by establishing minimum standards to prevent arbitrary and unnecessary removal of African American children from their families.

The Act would work to address disparities at every decision point while providing oversight and accountability to the child protection workforce through the creation of an African American Child Welfare Advisory Council appointed by the commissioner and an African American Child Wellbeing Department within DHS.

We all know that healthy families are vital to the success of our children and ultimately, our state. Everyone has a stake in ensuring Minnesota's Child Protection system is fair and equitable. Help us address these racial disparities and the injustice faced by these families through your support of the African American Family Preservation Act.